Central Maine Area Agency on Aging - Aging and Disability Resource Center

1.800.639.1553 www.spectrumgenerations.org

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## Marci's Medicare Answers

We have a rapidly aging population, and a Medicare program that has become increasingly complex. Now more than ever, people need answers to their questions about health care benefits, rights and options. Through Marci's Medicare Answers—a free, nationally syndicated column from The Medicare Rights Center—we're working to provide accurate, timely and helpful information on Medicare. Each month we will include on our website a Marci's Medicare Answers section. Hope you find this helpful and interesting.

## Dear Marci,

I receive \$1,300 each month from my Social Security retirement benefits. This is my o	nly source
of income, and I have about \$10,000 in assets. Do I qualify for Extra Help?	

—John

Dear John,

Yes, based on your income and assets, you will likely qualify for Extra Help. Extra Help is a federal assistance program that helps to pay Medicare prescription drug costs for people with limited incomes.

In 2015, individuals who receive less than \$1,471 in income each month and have up to \$13,640 in assets should qualify for Extra Help.

Married couples who receive less than \$1,991 in income each month and up to \$27,250 in assets should qualify for Extra Help.

Know that if you have Medicaid, a Medicare Savings Program, or receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you should automatically receive Extra Help.

You can apply for Extra Help online by visiting www.ssa.gov. You can also apply by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or by visiting your local Social Security office.

-Marci

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